

# Yucca Mountain Project

## Latest Developments

### Yucca Mountain Project One Step Closer to Termination

On Monday, February 1, 2010 President Obama's proposed federal budget for fiscal year 2011 (October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011) was released, eliminating funding for the program to build a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain. A number of procedural and legal steps are expected to take place over the next several months. Final appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011 will not be approved until later in the year.

At the same time, the Department of Energy (DOE) budget provides funds to continue efforts to develop a new nuclear waste management strategy. The budget also extends credit subsidies for renewable energy, such as solar and biofuels, and for energy efficient projects. This energy development approach also includes authorization for DOE to guarantee loans for new nuclear power plants.

### Blue Ribbon Commission

On January 29, Secretary of Energy Steven Chu announced the formation of a Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. Led by former Congressman Lee Hamilton and former National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft, the 15-member commission was directed to conduct a policy review for managing the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle. This commission is expected to make recommendations including alternatives for the storage, processing, and disposal of civilian and defense spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste. A final report is due in two years.

### DOE Motion to Stay Proceeding

The DOE filed a Motion to Stay the NRC licensing proceedings and indicated its intent to formally withdraw the License Application with prejudice within 30 days. The term with prejudice means that the DOE can't bring back the same application in the future. A three-judge panel of the Atomic Safety Licensing Board will consider the request.

### DOE Pulls Water Applications

The Department of Energy withdrew 116 previously filed water applications with the State Engineer for building a rail line that would have transported nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain.

### Is Yucca Mountain Dead?

The project is certainly a big step closer to termination. If the License Application is formally withdrawn, several actions will need to be taken, including ending the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, which governs the process for construction and operation of a repository. In the meantime, Clark County will continue to provide current, accurate information to its residents



**CLARK COUNTY**  
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